(b) whether most of these soldiers are undergoing treatment at private hospitals and nursing homes in various parts of Delhi;

(c) if so, the number of such injured soldiers getting treatment in India;

(d) whether the expenditure is borne by the Government of India and if so, how much amount, so far, has been borned by the Government; and

(e) whether any agreement in this regard has been arrived at and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) We have no information in this regard.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

Internet Threatens Copyright Regime

3429. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to the news item captioned "Internet threatens copyright regime" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times', New Delhi, dated November 9, 1996; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item captioned "Internet threatens copyright regime" in "The Hindustan Times", New Delhi dated November 9, 1996 refers to challenges to copyright protection posed by developments in the field of digital technologies and the Internet. The article refers to the possibilities of copyright piracy because of the use of digitial technologies and to the demand of interested groups in the country that measures be taken to modify the copyright and neighbouring rights appropriately to respond to the new information age.

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), a specialised agency of the United Nations Organisation, has convened a Diplomatic Conference in Geneva from December 2 to 20, 1996 to consider new treaties on copyright and neighbouring rights taking into consideration recent developments in the fields of digital technologies and communications. India is participating in the Diplomatic Conference with a view to protecting its national interest. The Government has held extensive consultations with concerned groups on the new treaties. A core group was constituted in the Department of Education with representatives of other Ministeries/Departments, copyright and neighbouring rights organisations, experts on copyrights, academic institutions like Indian Institutes of Technology etc. to consider the proposed treaties. Panel discussions were also held in Delhi and Hyderabad on the proposed treaties. All possible steps are being taken to protect the national interests in this area.

Financial Assistance to Hospitals

3430. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has extended any financial help to any hospital under the Cooperative or other sector in the State of Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details with terms and conditions of such financing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). Central assistance is extended to the States/Union Territories under various National Programmes as per approved pattern.

[Translation]

Funds for AIDS

3431. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any funds to U.P. for prevention of AIDS during the last three years;

(b) if so, the manner in which those funds have been utilised by the U.P. Government;

(c) the number of AIDS affected persons in U.P. at present, particularly in Khurja Constituency;

(d) the assistance provided by the Union Government to U.P. particularly to Government hospitals in Southern U.P. for prevention of AIDS and the Hospitals, Medical colleges where AIDS detection facility is available; and

(e) the steps being taken to provide this facility to other big hospitals also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b). The funds released by the Central Government and expenditure incurred by the State Government for Prevention and Control of AIDS